

GayCommoditySchmooze

THE WEEKLY FOR LUPPIES AND GUPPIES

Upswing in Condom Stocks!



THIS WEEK IN THE HEADLINES:

Mandatory Fashion Test for Heterosexuals

GAY COMMODITY SCHMOOZE

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The Outlook

Mandatory Testing for Straights!!!

Fashion Industry "Ecstatic"

By BILL BLAST

Staff Reporter of THE GAY COMMODITY SCHMOOZE

WASHINGTON—Starting immediately, heterosexuals everywhere will be forced to undergo compulsory testing for fashion awareness. This controversial new action instituted by Surgeon General C. Every Poop has won widespread approval within the gay community, but is being met with much consternation within heterosexual circles.

One heterosexual woman who identified herself only as Debbie, a vice-president in an oil conglomerate with extensive holdings in South Africa, was adamant in her response to the mandate.

"Like," she whined, "if I wanna mix whatever colors I want, that's my right. I think."

If anger to the point of militance has been the standard response within the heterosexual community, then joy to the point of euphoria has been the reaction of homosexuals.

"Oh, hooray!" gushed Dino deDapper, editor-in-chief of popular fashion magazine *Q.Q.* "It's bad enough that these heteros insist on their so-called 'right' to wear polyester in their own homes — but on the street, where all the rest of us can see? Honey, I've endured some outfits that'd curl your hair. I walk one lousy block from my condo to my office and some of the color combos I've seen have been Instant Migraine."

But deDapper isn't just dishing. According to Poop, the medical threat to the general population as a result of these Fashion Ignorant Heterosexual People (F.I.H.P.s) should not be underestimated.

"The number of crippling headaches which can be linked directly to middle-aged heterosexual men in ill-fitting golfing outfits has been grossly under-reported for years," said Poop in his preliminary report. "It is with deep regret that I must institute mandatory testing for fashion awareness along with a quarantine order for all F.I.H.P.s who insist on dressing in such a blatantly dangerous manner. I institute these programs for the safety and well-being of society in general, but also to protect the fashion ignorant from themselves."

The Centers for Chic Control (C.C.C.) in Atlanta have had a fashion awareness testing program, called the Liza Test, designed and ready to implement for months.

"The Liza is not that difficult a test," says Dr. Donny N. Marie, director of the C.C.C., "Why, it's as basic as doing Color Me Beautiful. There's a short True or False section with very simple questions like, 'True or False: Most male fashion models are heterosexual.' Then we have a straight-forward fill in the blank portion with questions along the line of 'Name the one major designer who isn't homosexual.' Well, that one's obviously a trick question, but the rest are easy. The only part that will be difficult for heterosexuals comes in what we like to call the 'Multiple Choice Paper Doll' section. It's here that we separate the Chic from the Ignorant. The hetero must arrange swatches of fabrics according to color and texture in the least atrocious manner possible. In all honesty we

What's News—

IN RESPONSE to allegations in the radical leftist press that the Pope is a surrogate father, the Vatican public relations office released its latest pronouncement regarding human reproduction and sexuality. The document was headlined, "Pope to test-tube babies: Dry up."

(See Story on Page 10)

IN A STARTLING PRESS conference yesterday, Nancy Reagan unveiled a new public awareness campaign directed at halting what she called the greatest threat to her own peace of mind. The campaign slogan, to be printed on the sides of milk cartons and in the funny pages of the major Sunday newspapers, will read, "Drugs, just say 'yo!' Heterosexuality, just say 'no!'"

(Story on Page 69)

A GALA AFFAIR will mark the opening of the new corporate offices of *Gay Commodity Schmooze*, the national weekly for gay women and men with disposable income. Always riding the crest of Boston's rehabilitation wave, GCS is pleased with its move to the regal Paramount Building at 62 Berkeley Street in the South End.



Corporate and executive offices of Gay Commodity Schmooze.

Executive, managerial and editorial staff will entertain well-wishers with caviar and champagne at the April 6 reception. A special announcement of a much heralded format change from newsprint to glossy paper, and from news to lifestyle gossip, is anticipated.

(Story on Page 2)

predict a failure rate of some 80 to 86 percent as a result of this part of the test.

"Of course there is an optional bonus portion where those who do poorly can make up a few points. It's the after-shave vs. cologne section and I'm not really at liberty to discuss it. Let's just say that those who opt for a bottle of cologne they can pick up at the local CVS might as well throw in the towel right now."

Those who are not in the High Risk of Failure groups, among them homosexuals, as well as heterosexuals with very close homosexual friends, don't feel that F.I.H.P.s touch their lives.

"I hope they quarantine the whole lot of them," said well-known gay personality G. Gordon Guppity, "I'm absolutely sick of looking at straight men who couldn't accessorize a sport coat if their lives depended on it, and of course with mandatory testing it just might."

SCANTILY CLAD

in white gloves, bra, girdle, and garters, President Reagan grew indignant when reporters barged unannounced into his dressing room after a press conference last night. Asked why he was dressed in such a manner, Reagan responded he heard it might provide a cure for some types of laryngitis, amnesia and paranoia.

(Story on Page 2)



Our Prez-ee-dent

THE SECOND ANNUAL lesbian tofu-bake-off will be held on April 5 at Modern Whines Cafe in Cambridge, MA. Entries for this year's event will include 8 kinds of tofu layer cake, tofudaikon root-barley stew and alcohol-free tofu beer. And don't miss 99 Erotic Uses of Tofu, a new stage show by Betty and the Croquettes. All proceeds from the event will go to the Buy a Birkenstock campaign.

(See Story Page 33)

Who's Who and Why?

Gentle Gays for Ron

Nancy Jealous?

By WESTWOMBMOON

Staff Reporter of the GAY COMMODITY SCHMOOZE

WASHINGTON—A small but vocal group of gay women are organizing a campaign to re-elect Ronald Reagan. "He's really a nice old man," said Susan Smiley of Gentle Gay Republicans for Ronald Reagan (GGRRR). "By supporting Reagan, GGRRR is showing the world that gay women are not all man-hating lesbian separatists."

Many lesbians question Reagan's stands on women's issues and gay rights, acknowledged Smiley. But, she said, Reagan's closest advisor, Nancy Reagan, is a woman. "Clearly, Reagan has a sensitivity towards women that rarely comes across in his policies," said Smiley. "Besides, we lesbians who have joined the upper echelons of society cannot ignore Reagan's role in keeping a good flow of diamonds coming from South Africa. Look at this beauty on my wedding ring. My wife gave it to me in a wonderful ceremony...."

Reagan is less than enthused about GGRRR's support. "I don't believe I authorized this," he told GCS. "You say they've been around since December 12, 1986. Umm, Uh, leave me alone. Do you remember what time you fed your poodle on December 12, 1986?"

By the Numbers

Condom Market Spurts

Scumbag Corporations Are Bullish

By STUART HAWKINS
and KITTY CARRY-ALL

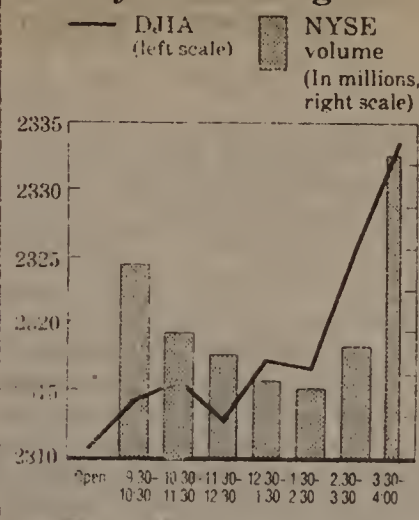
Reprinted from THE WALL STREET URINAL

NEW YORK—Fifteen years ago the sales of prophylactics were flaccid and getting continuously more limp. Today a previously untapped market, Sophisticated Urban Gay People, has been the driving force behind both dwindling amyl nitrate returns as well as a suddenly firm condom consumer force.

"We couldn't have planned it this way even if we wanted to, and believe me, we wanted to," says a smiling Flushing T. Bowles III, Chairman of the Board at The Big, Fake Horse Condom Company, Inc. "If only we could've interested gay men in our product back in the mid-seventies, when they were still having sex!"

Apparently they still are having sex, if the throbbing, pulsating action on the big boards, as well as the trading floor, is to be any indication. The soaring prices per share for all of the major rubber companies and the financial killings by those in the know have left consumers and traders gasping for

Friday's Late Surge



breath, and lighting up cigarettes.

Bruce-Michael Queendom, president of the Fairy Trade Commission (an independent homosexually-oriented financial watch-group and every-other-Wednesday Potluck Dinner Organization), says "Our group has been incredibly vigilant for any sort of leaks. We'd hate to see anybody make a killing at the expense of the uninformed."

Leaks notwithstanding, condoms seem to be getting stronger every day. Network television, a long-time holdout on condom advertisements, seems to be on the verge of giving up.

Linda Sapph-Toklas, president of the Feminist Communication Commission (an independent lesbian-oriented media consultant group and motorcycle club), notes that widespread discussion of scumbags has become increasingly more common all over the dial. "After we saw Big Bird put a rubber on before a scene with Snuffleupagus the other day we knew it was just a matter of time."

Both the FTC and the FCC express some skepticism over one new aspect of condom marketing, to which both Queendom and Sapph-Toklas can attest.

"The Big, Fake Horse Condom Company, Inc. is about to introduce 'Sheesies — The Condom for Lesbians,' and quite frankly, we're a little leary."

Community Kvetches

Dear GCS:

This is in response to W. Coleman's letter of 3/15/87 in which W. replied to a letter submitted by one Robi Spoonhead in GCS issue number 6669 regarding a letter of mine you printed in late January in which I attempted to defend an article of mine you published last December titled "Gay Economic Reality *vis a vis* The Dove Bar."

It should be obvious that anyone with a functioning brain cell would never be as confused as either Coleman or Spoonhead (or the hundreds of other petty, jealous respondents) but the fact is that I, myself, became a bit disoriented and accidentally wound up attacking my own theories.

For a more detailed analysis of this issue please look for my various essays "Oops! What Have I Done?," "I Really Do Know What I'm Talking About," and "It's Not Easy Being Ubiquitous," currently appearing in the letters columns of every gay periodical on Earth.

Yours,
R.R. Wombatski

CRASSIFIEDS

I LOVE YOU, CARDINAL LAWS
Dear Bernard, I'm such a mess
(What do you hide under your dress!)
I feel such lust, I feel such loves
(Must you wear red when adorned by gloves?)

I yearn to kiss, I beg to touch
(But those beads, Bernard, are just too much!)

My poem's a sham, too mild, too meek.
(Come find me, Bernie, when your style gets Sheik!)

(CC)
HOT, HOT, HOT
GM, really into some serious pepper scenes, seeks friends for grinding, and maybe other activities. Write Box 602-A. (CC)

TRANSPLANT NEEDED
LF needs new ticker...and seeks politically-correct donation. Liberals, feminists, veggies, open, warm, earthy-crunchy people into process, egalitarianism, heart-centering need apply. Write Box 603-A (CC)

I'VE HAD TOO MUCH GREAT SEX
I'm a fabulously attractive semil-butche femme dyke capable of multi-decible, Richter scale orgasms (active and passive) but my one desire is to hang out and drink beer with some average lumpenprols. Walks by the sea wd. be nice. Send fav. Holly Near tape, pics, employment status & show size. Box UNME. (CC)

BODIES BY LIZA
Limp-wristed fairies, long-haired queans & politically correct pansies: Apply now for big-bucks gigs as Stonewall-era veterans to speak to young innocents at college campuses in major US suburbs. Send writing sample and bra size to TR-IF, Tastefully Revolting, Incorporated Fags, c/o GCS.

If u cn rd ths ad,
u cn gt a gd blw jb

Enroll NOW in the Columbia School of Speedblowing. Call: 555-BLOW.

Men's Musak Musings

Howdy, I Love You. An album by The Borawski Beet, on MCA-WMNOPAIN Records and Tapes.

Major label debut by our old faves, the B. B. is a hairy-chested bohemian disco beatnik band with an irresistible bongo beat and a taste for vegetarian lyrics. The title song, however, is a lusty reworking of the old Doors tune, "Hello, I Love You," only this time it's a lascivious homoerotic tribute to '50's television puppet, Howdy Doody. A very important record.

—Pee Wee Sherwin
GCS REVIEWER

Pass The Tissue. An album by Denholm Pilpop, on Fruit Bearing Tree Records, Tapes and Compact Discs.

By gay men, for gay men. Cry gay men, bore gay men.

—Bonkers Ronco
GCS REVIEWER

Homoscopes

ARIES: The Ram. You charge ahead, regardless of the consequences. Which is why you have a tattoo of Mickey Mouse on your back.

TAURUS: Taurus is the Bull. You should do well in the stock market — or lying about why you didn't come home on Saturday night.

GEMINI: Gemini is the symbol of the Twins. Hey, whatever. Just remember you need twice as much protection.

CANCER: The Crab. Try tact and patience. If that doesn't work, scuttle around the issue sideways.

LEO: Like the Lion, you are bold and fearless. You sometimes feel surrounded by the hunters. Remember: Lions live in a *pride*.

VIRGO: The Virgin is the symbol of innocence and purity. (Boy, have *they* got the wrong number!) Try not to be so cynical (unless you're living with a Taurus).

LIBRA: The Scales stand for Justice. You believe in Justice passionately, especially when you're the one getting

Dear Rabid

Dear Rabid,

Even when I was a little boy, I never liked to dress up like the other fairies. I'd rather wear old jeans and a comfortable flannel shirt. My friends wouldn't talk to me at the last GCN benefit — they said I looked like a dyke. Is there something wrong with me?

—Happy As A Slob

Dear Slob,

There definitely is something wrong! Perhaps you need counseling to help you accept your proper role in life. You certainly shouldn't embarrass your friends by cross-dressing in public. Consider this a friendly warning. Next time, someone might call the Fashion Police!

—Love, Rabid

Dear Rabid,

I have heard claims for an amazing product called, "Anti-Grecian Formula" which claims it "washes away the gay, so gradually your friends don't notice." Is this true? Can it do what it claims — and would it work for my parents' anniversary?

—Dying With Curiosity

Schmoozers on the Move



Some Gay Commodity Schmooze staffers sit through their last staff meeting before "the move." (Don't look now, but a ceiling tile is about to fall on the head of a dedicated GCS staffer.) Although falling tiles, leaky ceilings and rampant rodents can add a certain ambiance to some businesses, the GCS staffers have decided slumming it is not longer in vogue.



In outfits more befitting to the nation's premiere weekly for old and young urban profit mongers, some GCS staff members examine accounts receivable. "A personal computer for every Schmoozer" is the slogan often heard around the new corporate offices.

screwed. The rest of the world is on its own.

SCORPIO: The Scorpion has a sting, and so do you. Maybe that's why you turn in your ex-lovers to the IRS.

SAGITTARIUS: Like the Archer, you shoot arrows of love into your beloved's heart. Unfortunately, your aim is bad. The fire hydrant on the corner wants your body.

CAPRICORN: The Goat is loyal and clever at outwitting trolls. You are also horny and smell bad.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius is the Water-Bearer. This could mean you like to make love underwater, in the ocean, or engage in other water sports.

PISCES: Like the Fish, you like to congregate and play in schools. Also offices, bars, supermarkets, discos, laundromats...

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY: Jupiter is rising in Uranus with Mercury watching. Saturn is in Mars and Venus is playing with herself. Have a happy birthday — and if you can't be happy, at least be gay!

Dear Dy,

You have it backwards. What's wrong with you, anyway? That's "Grecian Formula" — and it sounds like you need a few tubes of the stuff. If you hurry, it just *might* work in time for Gay Pride Day.

—Love, Rabid

Dear Rabid,

Because I'm a lesbian, I always try to do better than the other secretaries. I stay later and work harder, but I never get a raise. Lately I learned how to use two keyboards at once. Do you think this will help?

—Weary Word Processer

Dear Weary,

Two keyboards at once? Are you out of your mind?! Stop immediately! Do you want to be a *stereotype*?

—Love, Rabid

Dear Rabid,

Do you recommend investing in gay and lesbian stocks and bonds?

—Intelligent Outside Investor

Dear In/Out/In,

Gay bonds are an excellent investment. Properly looked after, they should last for years, and can also be

useful for such diverse purposes as, say, chaining you dog to the lamppost. Stocks may be harder to come by, however, outside of Sturbridge, Salem and other "quaint" villages. (Those Puritans knew how to have a good time!!)

—Love, Rabid

Dear Rabid,

I'm a construction engineer and encounter a lot of racism, sexism and homophobia. It doesn't help that I'm an Asian woman who is also a lesbian! My boss(who is male, Italian and straight) says that it's just too much, and I should try to change my life, to make things easier for myself. Is he right?

—Little Engineer That Couldn't

Dear Couldn't,

Unfortunately, your boss is right. There's a lot of prejudice in today's world, and there's nothing wrong in making life a little easier. While there's nothing you can do about two of those three items, you should change what you can. I recommend an immediate sex change.

—Love, Rabid

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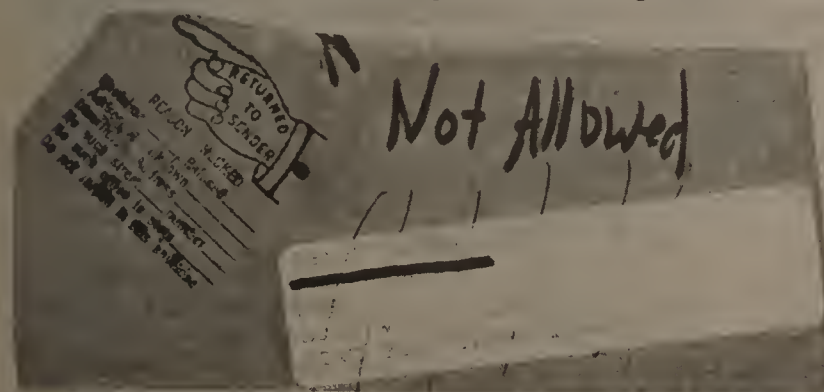
GCN Banned From Prisons

By Stephanie Poggi

LANSING, MI — *Gay Community News* has been banned in the Michigan prison system, and apparently, from individual prisons in Arkansas and Alabama.

In the meantime, a ban on the paper by the Virginia Dept. of Corrections has ended. (See *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 25) *GCN* was informed on February 18 that Deputy Director of Adult Institutions for

since the beginning of February. According to George Pennell, administrative assistant to the warden at the Marquette men's prison, "We don't let any homosexual literature into any institutions." He explained, "We don't feel we want to promote homosexuality in the prison — we consider it a misconduct if two prisoners are caught in the act."



Issue of *GCN* rejected by prison officials at Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Virginia, Edward C. Morris, had reviewed issue No. 25, which contained a story about the ban. Based on that issue, he judged *GCN* to be acceptable. However, Morris noted that subsequent issues "may be reviewed on an issue for issue basis to ensure continued compliance with the Guideline." The section of the "Guideline" which had been used to keep *GCN* out since last October concerned prohibitions on depiction of perverted behavior."

In Michigan, the Dept. of Corrections has been denying *GCN* at all of its state institutions

He added, "Since your paper is a gay paper, you probably don't agree."

A gay man at Marquette prison has filed a grievance in response to the ban, but he believes "it will take a civil suit or court order to overturn director [Robert Brown Jr.'s] decision."

Legal action against the prison system could be taken on the grounds the ban of *GCN* violates prisoners' and publishers' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. A 1983 decision by a U.S. District court in Oregon held that a

Continued on page 11

El Salvador Death Squad List Includes Gay Man

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, DC — A "death squad list" compiled by the El Salvador National Guard includes the name of at least one person who may have been singled out for assassination because he is gay, according to recent testimony before the House Subcommittee on Constitutional and Civil Rights.

Information about the most recent death squad lists, which generally consist of El Salvadorans believed to oppose their government, was given at the February Subcommittee hearing by former F.B.I. agent Frank Varelli. Varelli, who collected death squad lists for the F.B.I., has sued the agency for back pay and expenses incurred while he was working in El Salvador.

Dr. Fabio Castillo's name appears on one of the lists Varelli collected with the word "homosexual" by his name. Several people on the list have been killed in El Salvador, presumably by the Salvador Guard, according to Dan Kesselbrenner of the National Lawyers Guild National Immigration Project in Boston.

Ellen Yaroshefsky of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York believes the death squad lists may have been passed on from the F.B.I. to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in order to deny asylum to Salvadorans named on the lists. She cautions, however, that Varelli's testimony has not been verified.

Under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, the INS may deny admission to aliens "afflicted with psychopathic personality, or sexual deviation, or a mental defect." The INS may have used the Act to return gay or lesbian El Salvadoran political exiles to their homeland despite — or because of — the likelihood that they would be killed there, speculated Yaroshefsky.

Kesselbrenner said that although homosexuals are not seen as a threat to the security of El Salvador, they represent "rejection of governmental culture."

The National Guard does not confine its death lists to opponents of the government, said Varelli in his testimony. "For example, one person

was added to the list because the person was dating a sister of one of the persons at the [death squad] meetings and did not care for him." Varelli, who sat in on several meetings of the death squad, told *GCN* that homosexuality was not an important issue for the Guard, but that they "welcomed the opportunity" to harass anyone considered "different."

Although there are no laws against it, homosexuality is not tolerated in El Salvador, according to Jaime Suriano of El Comité El Salvador, a Salvadoran advocacy group in Cambridge. Most gay men in El Salvador spend their entire lives "under the table," making laws unnecessary, added Suriano.

Because El Salvadoran lesbians and gay men seeking asylum in the U.S. tend to be closeted and are also fleeing a U.S.-backed regime, they avoid the INS and rarely use legal channels to immigrate, said Suriano. "It takes people about five days to get smuggled into the United States and they often face great hardship along the way. Women are usually raped as payment for favors and nobody is going to raise the issue. This is not something anyone can keep track of."

Varelli claims that he was working to improve ties between the National Guard and the F.B.I. at the same time the F.B.I. was supposedly investigating the Guard for human rights abuses in El Salvador. Varelli later turned his attention to infiltrating the Houston office of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

On February 18, United State Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) introduced the Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendment of 1987, which would overturn the anti-gay provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act. A "humanitarian" waiver, also introduced by Frank, has prevented extensive use of the act against gay aliens, but according to Leonard Graff, legal director of the San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates, there is no guarantee of this.

—filed from Boston

In the wake of LaRouche defeat

Calif. Health Officers Consider Quarantine

By Elizabeth Pincus

SACRAMENTO, CA — Despite the resounding defeat last November of the LaRouche-sponsored AIDS quarantine initiative, public health officials here have begun pushing to implement quarantine measures for some people with AIDS and ARC. Various County Health Officers argue that the laws of the state Health and Safety Code have always allowed for the forced isolation of individuals with communicable diseases, under county jurisdiction. Some officials hope to enforce these laws and begin the quarantine of so-called "recalcitrant" people with AIDS/ARC.

AIDS activists, lesbian/gay rights proponents, civil libertarians of all stripes, and some public health officials — including the County Health Commissioners in San Francisco and Los Angeles — have mounted fervent resistance to this proposed tactic.

"The proposals are very dangerous," says Paul Boneberg, National Director of the San Francisco-based direct-action group Mobilization Against AIDS. "We believe that the use of isolation and quarantine laws is ill-advised and will hurt efforts to stem the epidemic. Because, basically, it turns health officers into the police."

"The powers for quarantine were never intended to allow

health officers to put people in jail for life."

Boneberg explained that there is a technical distinction between the LaRouche initiative or Proposition 64, and what officials are now advocating. "Proposition 64 would have directed the State Department of Health to begin massive quarantining. This is simply a discussion of procedure by which the County Health Officers would agree for uniformity in using powers they already have. They maintain that their intent is to put forward an established procedure that every county would agree to follow so that civil rights would be guaranteed for anyone they need to isolate. We, of course, don't buy that."

Nor do many others. When health officers announced their intentions in February, they were met with strenuous community outcry over the similarity in language between this latest proposal and the trounced Proposition 64. Activists were especially angry because all county health officers in California had vigorously opposed Proposition 64 in the fall.

Speculates Richard Bell of San Francisco's Human Rights Commission, "I think they [health officers] opposed Proposition 64 because it would have affected their power, like they didn't want somebody from the outside enforcing the quarantine. They wanted

to do it themselves, and now they're trying to set up the mechanism to use their power."

This current move to implement quarantine powers was initiated by Carl Smith, an officer of the public health department in Alameda County, which includes the cities of Oakland and Berkeley. He chairs the Disease Control Committee, comprised of members of the statewide Conference of Local Health Officers. Smith's committee developed guidelines and presented the Conference with a broadly-worded proposal concerning the use of isolation powers in California, specifically targeting "recalcitrant" infected persons — those perceived to be willfully spreading AIDS or ARC.

Explains Smith, "We want to be certain that local health officers understand their legal authority. When quarantine laws were established early in this century, there was little acknowledgement of due process. So we want to insure that isolation is used only as a last resort and includes due process — adequate notification, legal representation, a fair hearing, etc."

Smith also stressed that the proposal is intended to apply only to persons with AIDS or ARC who have demonstrated repeated failure to voluntarily stop engaging in "dangerous activities." He



Rallying against quarantine plan, Calif. State Building steps, S.F., Feb. 24.

also insists, despite earlier reports to the contrary, that the proposal will not apply to HIV-positive persons who do not have AIDS or ARC. Lesbian and gay spokespersons contacted in San Francisco report that the community finds the whole notion reprehensible. The proposal suggests that anyone who suspects someone of spreading the virus could report that person to county health officers. The officers would then have the authority to enforce a four-point disciplinary plan that could require the individual to: 1) report for examination, 2) undergo counseling,

3) change his or her behavior through limited restrictions (i.e., forbid them to go to gay bars) and 4) go into strict isolation (i.e., jail). This proposal includes specific suggestions for implementing each of the four stages, including the construction of "hospitals" or "isolation facilities."

According to Boneberg, although the officers stress a minimum use of restraint, their suggestions amount to imposing lifetime prison sentences. "It's amazing," he says, "to think that one health official could jail as

Continued on page 5

News Notes

quote of the week

"It's really very simple. It's got an erection, seize it."

—A senior British Customs official, briefing staff on the definition of obscenity, according to *OutRage of Australia*, December, 1986.

azt & ribavirin make bad partners

BOSTON — AZT and ribavirin may antagonize each other when combined, according to researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

Research to determine whether the two drugs together would be more powerful than each one individually (known as a synergistic effect) was conducted via test tube studies.

"A synergistic effect might allow us to lower drug doses to less toxic but still effective levels," said Markus W. Vogt, M.D., principal author of the study which was published in the March 13 issue of *Science*. "Unfortunately, our findings, which we reproduced in several different cell systems, consistently showed that the very strong antiviral effect of AZT was inhibited when ribavirin was added."

Ribivirin has reportedly been successful in reducing the transition from early stage lymph node disease into the full blown AIDS. AZT has prolonged the lives of certain people with AIDS who have recovered from PCP (pneumocystis carinii pneumonia) and some people with ARC.

Dr. Martin Hirsch, head of AIDS research at MGH cautioned people with AIDS against mixing drugs indiscriminately. "It is a natural temptation for people who are desperate and fear for their lives to attempt to combine these drugs. Until we have studied this combination further, those who combine them may be doing themselves real harm," said Hirsch.

Other drug combinations, such as AZT and interferon, are potentially useful for people with AIDS, according to MGH researchers. Interferon does not cross the blood-brain barrier but when combined with AZT — which does — may be useful against the neurological affects of the virus.

—Kim Westheimer

bavaria to forcibly test for hiv

BONN, West Germany — The government of the southern state of Bavaria has announced a series of restrictive measures to be taken against members of groups thought to be at risk of exposure to HIV, according to the *New York Times*.

An official in the government of right-wing Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss announced that prostitutes, IV-drug users, and prisoners will be compelled to submit to HIV-antibody tests. In addition, there are plans to close some establishments patronized by gay men and to forcibly test people arrested in raids on such places.

The state government also plans to test all applicants for civil service jobs and all foreigners from countries outside the Common Market who apply for residency permits.

These measures met with strong criticism not only from leftists and AIDS activists but also from conservatives such as Federal Health Minister Rita Süssmuth.

— Martin Heggstad



On the heels of the Iran-Contra scandal, Boston activists, including a number of lesbians and gay men, protest a March 18 U.S. Senate vote to send \$40 million to the Contras. The demonstration took place March 20 at the J.F.K. federal building.

—Kim Westheimer

tell your story with . . . pride

BOSTON — The Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee is currently accepting proposals from people wishing to speak at this year's rally/festival, June 13, 1987. Speakers should address issues of concern to the lesbian and gay community and keep in mind this year's national theme, "Proud, Strong, United" and local theme, "The Harder We're Hit, The Stronger We Get."

The Committee would also like suggestions from the community about who to solicit as speakers and performers at this year's event. Groups interested in selling Pride merchandise other than t-shirts are also invited to contact the committee. Write Pride Celebrations, P.O. Box 8916, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 267-2113.

The Committee meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 34 Edgerly Rd. (rear entrance), Boston, except for March 26 when the Committee will meet at City Hall.

—Stephanie Poggi

fake birth control pills scam

MIAMI — The U.S. Department of Justice has issued a federal indictment against six Florida residents for "conspiring to import and sell fake birth control pills" from 1981 to 1984. The over-the-counter value of the pills was estimated at more than a million dollars.

According to Assistant Attorney General Richard K. Williard, the indictment charges that the drugs were produced to counterfeit Ovulen-21, a prescription birth-control pill produced by G.D. Searle and Co. and approved by the FDA.

The scheme reportedly resulted in the sale of more than 100,000 cycles — or monthly supplies of 21 pills — to four wholesale drug distributors.

The investigation began after G.D. Searle received complaints that some Ovulen-21 pills had disintegrated when users attempted to push the pills from their packages.

All of the counterfeit pills have been off the market since January of 1985.

—Stephanie Poggi

women fight the prison business

SAN FRANCISCO — Several actions are underway to protect prison conditions for women, reports *The Guardian*. A major class action suit has been filed in California in an effort to improve the state prison system's deplorable pre-natal care. Participants are being represented by Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, a privately funded San Francisco project. A settlement is currently under negotiations, and litigators hope to make some nationally significant changes.

One plaintiff, Brenda Jackson, had already begun hemorrhaging the day her jail sentence began for petty theft; she was five months pregnant. For 28 days Jackson begged to see a doctor. When she was finally permitted a visit, she was diagnosed as having placenta previa — the separation of the placenta lining from the uterus — which is treatable. "Outside," the treatment includes lots of rest, but Jackson was assigned janitorial duties. She miscarried.

According to Ellen Barry, a lawyer working on the suit, 75-80 percent of incarcerated women are mothers, in jail for nonviolent crimes; 90 percent are single and two-thirds are women of color. Tremendous growth in the women's prison population over the last decade has resulted in severe overcrowding — and a disproportionate impact on single mothers with children.

Another lawsuit, *Rios v. McCarthy*, has been filed against the California Department of Corrections for failing to provide a feasible Mother-Infant Care Program. Since 1978, the state has been authorized to set up halfway houses, permitting an early release in order for women to reunite with their children. Until 1985, there was only one house with space for 12 women and 21 children. The lawsuit has spurred the state to open only five more such houses with total capacity of 135.

In San Jose, Calif., the local chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) is protesting the shackling of female defendants when they are brought into court. Male prisoners are not shackled. (Legal Services for Prisoners with Children has forced the Dept. of Corrections to stop using waist shackles on pregnant women.) San Jose prison officials argue that, unlike men, women prisoners have no holding cells near the courtrooms, so they must be shackled for security reasons. Male prisoners are let out, one by one, as their cases are called. Women are held in leg chains, waist chains, or handcuffs, forced to rise in a group when individual cases are called, or sit together in uncomfortable positions. NOW is negotiating with the Sheriff's Department and will consider litigation if no acceptable solution is reached.

—Kathryn Diaz

false aids alarm ends in death

VERONA, Italy — A man who mistakenly thought he had AIDS shot himself, his pregnant wife, and their two-year-old daughter, according to UPI via the *Advocate*.

Bruno Anselmi wrote in a suicide note that he had diagnosed himself as having AIDS after hearing radio reports about the disease. He feared that he had contracted AIDS from having sex with a prostitute three years ago.

In reality, he was suffering from the flu, according to the report.

— Martin Heggstad



homeless women & children sit-in

BOSTON — Over 200 homeless women and children sat-in over night at the state house to protest inadequate state funding for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The February 20 sit-in preceded House Ways and Means Budget Hearings, held the next morning.

The protesters, organized by the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, dubbed the State House the "Golden Dome Shelter" and the "Hotel Gold Dome" for the event. Many of the protesters testified at the Budget Hearings, and the children presented daffodils to Ways and Means Committee members.

"We wanted to show the legislature and the public that volume and diversity of homeless families," said Katherine Mainzer, executive director for the Coalition. Participants in the protest live in hotels, motels, and shelters in all parts of the state, said Minzer.

AFDC benefits for a three-person family in Massachusetts are \$476 a month. In the new budget proposed by Michael Dukakis's administration, that figure would increase by six percent. Even with this increase, funding for AFDC would fall drastically short of needs projected by a state study. The study found that a family of three requires \$926 to meet basic living costs.

—Kim Westheimer

wesleyan students v. mass. foster policy

MIDDLETOWN, CT — The Wesleyan Student Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Massachusetts' Department of Social Services foster care policy.

The March 1 resolution, which was sent to Mass. Governor Michael Dukakis, urges him to "do everything in his power to see that the Massachusetts foster care policy be reversed immediately."

According to Hannah Doress of the assembly, the group wants to let Dukakis know that his stand against lesbian and gay foster parents will hurt him if he enters the Democratic presidential primaries.

— Kim Westheimer

aw, shucks, you shouldn't have

BUENOS AIRES — A 1946 law that barred gay people from voting in this city and the surrounding area will probably be repealed this summer, according to the San Francisco *Sentinel*.

Provincial Governor Alejandro Armendariz promised gay activists that he will ask the legislature to repeal the statute before the provincial municipal elections next November.

"What was relevant in 1946 doesn't have the same relevancy now," Armendariz said.

—Stephanie Poggi

gay rights bill for vermont

MONTPELIER, VT — For the first time, a gay rights bill has been introduced in the Vermont state legislature, according to AP via the *Advocate*.

Rep. Micque Giltman, one of 12 legislators sponsoring the bill, told a news conference, "We are starting on the final leg of civil rights legislation."

To demonstrate the need for the bill, several gay activists at the press conference presented the results of an informal survey of lesbians and gays in the state which indicates that harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is widespread.

—Martin Heggstad

Supreme Court Hears 'Gay Olympics' Case

By Kim Westheimer

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 24 in a case contesting the use of the word "olympics" by organizers of what is now called the "Gay Games."

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) contends that the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 gives them exclusive rights to the word "olympic." John Kester, lawyer for the USOC, told the Supreme Court that use of the name "Gay Olympics" for the gay sports event could signify "the biggest infringement that ever happened" to the word "olympic."

San Francisco Arts and Athletics (SFAA), which attempted to call the 1982 Gay Games the "Gay Olympics," claims the USOC suit against them is discriminatory. "The USOC singles us out because of the conjunction of the two words: olympics and gay," said Thomas Waddell, president of SFAA. The USOC has not protested scores of other organizations which have used the word "olympics." These include the Junior Olympics, Special Olympics, Crab Cooking Olympics and Xerox Olympics. The USOC has protested the use of the word "olympic" by some other organizations, including the March of Dimes' Reading Olympics and the Olympic Restaurant & Pizzeria in Philadelphia. All uses of the word "olympic" infringe on the USOC's fundraising, claims the organization.

SFAA and Waddell argue that the use of the word "olympic" in conjunction with a lesbian/gay sports event is an exercise of free speech and association as guaranteed by the First Amendment. A number of justices pursued the issue of First Amendment Rights, according to Jack Murphy, public relations person for SFAA. "[Justice William Rehnquist brought up the [following] analogy between the olympics and

baseball," said Murphy. "If baseball was on the decline and Congress said it's a national sport and we want to save it, could Congress give major league baseball the exclusive rights to the word 'baseball?'" Rehnquist implied that such exclusive rights to the word "baseball" would constitute an infringement of the First Amendment.

SFAA was formed in 1981 to organize the "Gay Olympics," a sporting event specifically for lesbians and gay men. The USOC almost immediately challenged their right to the word "olympic." In 1982 a federal judge issued a restraining order which prohibited San Francisco Arts & Athletics from using the word "olympic." In 1984 a Court of Appeals upheld the federal judge's decision. "[The Supreme Court] is the only court so far in which we have gotten a fair hearing," said Mary Dunlap, lawyer for SFAA.

Dunlap added that she is "extremely optimistic" about a positive resolution in the case.

Two Gay Games have been held, one in 1982 and one last year. Gay Games II in San Francisco drew over 3,500 athletes. Gay Games III is slated to be in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1990.

—filed from Boston

In Massachusetts

Gay Rights Bill Moves Forward

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — A lesbian and gay rights bill was passed on to a third reading by the Massachusetts House on March 24. Testimony regarding five other lesbian and gay rights bills will be heard on April 15 by the Joint Committee on Commerce and Labor.

The bill to gain a third reading, filed by Rep. William Nagle (D-Northampton), would protect lesbian and gay state-employed workers from discrimination. According to Nagle, this is the farthest his bill, which has been filed for a number of years, has gone in the legislature. "Hopefully we can get [the bill] through without discussion [by the full legislature]," said Nagle. "It's hard to believe anyone would object to equal opportunity to employment."

The bill, H1748, was given a favorable report by the Public Service Committee on February 25.

Specifically, H1748 would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring as well as in relation to "compensation...conditions or privileges of employment."

Nagle said his bill is limited to state employees because it's "hard to get a gay rights bill." "If we can get a [more inclusive] gay rights bill passed, [that's] even better," said Nagle. "But this is already in process and can get through more quickly."

The other bills introduced would provide more comprehensive protection for lesbians and gay men. The bills add sexual orientation to Massachusetts law which currently prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, age or ancestry.

Protection under the law relates to employment, housing, membership in labor organizations, coverage by insurance companies and use of public facilities.

Rep. Byron Rushing (D-Boston), Rep. Mark Roosevelt (D-Boston), Rep. Salvatore DiMasi (D-Boston) and Sen. Royal Bolling (D-Boston) are sponsors of the various bills.

Public testimony regarding the bills will be held on April 15 at the Gardner Auditorium in the State House at 10:00 a.m.

California Health Officers Consider Quarantine

Continued from page 3

many people as he wants. Their power is rather amazing. We hope to fend off that power and eventually derail it entirely."

Also at issue is the cost of implementing quarantine. Smith stated that local governments would shoulder the expenses, using their own budgetary discretion. "We're aware that this is not a means for controlling the epidemic," he says. "It only applies to individuals — it's not

significant in any broader sense."

Critics claim that money for creating isolation facilities and tracking "recalcitrants" will compete with already scarce funding for preventative education. The San Francisco Department of Public Health has stated it will not comply with any quarantine proposals. Tom Peters, Associate Director of the department, was quoted in a *Bay Area Reporter* article last month. "We do not have

Victory for BLGPA Boston Cops to Recruit Gays

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The Boston Police Department has announced a plan to actively recruit lesbian and gay police officers. The announcement was heralded as a victory by the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance which called for such a plan in a much publicized public meeting this month.

"My sense is that they've agreed to everything we asked for," said French Wall, a member of the Alliance. The Alliance, in a proposal dated February 17, asked the police department to place recruitment advertisements in the lesbian and gay press, place information tables at gay and lesbian community gatherings and increase contact with lesbian and gay neighborhood, service and religious groups. Members of the police department will meet with the Alliance's public safety committee, said Wall, in an effort to inform the organization about the department's application process.

In addition, the police department has announced they will increase the presence at lesbian/gay events of Capt. Donald Devine, the liaison to the lesbian and gay community and of Sgt. William Johnston of the Community Disorders Unit (CDU).

While Wall said he wasn't opposed to Devine's presence at events, he stressed, "I think having a straight-identified person as a liaison to the gay community doesn't make sense."

Ann Sanders of the Alliance said she would like to see Captain Devine "be on a more permanent assignment to our community." Currently Devine has a full-time job in the Hackney Division of the police department. "It's important we have a liaison...even if [he or she is] a straight person," she added.

Devine did not return GCN's phone calls.

The CDU has become increasingly involved in cases of anti-lesbian and -gay violence. Their role in the police department has traditionally been to investigate racially motivated attacks. At present they are actively involved in attempts to broaden Massachusetts civil rights law to include lesbians and gay men. (See story, this page.) Recruitment of lesbians and gay officers won't necessarily help the CDU in this effort, said Sgt. Johnston. "It depends on the quality of a police officer. It doesn't matter if you're Black, yellow, straight or gay."

Attorney General Shannon files brief

Mass. Supports Rights Law in Gay Bashings

An attack on an individual because of his or her sexual orientation constitutes an interference with the rights of personal privacy.

—Massachusetts Attorney General James Shannon.

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The State Attorney General's office has filed an amicus brief in Roxbury District Court, asserting that state and federal civil rights laws should be used in cases where an attack seems to be motivated by homophobia.

The brief, filed on March 19, was filed in a case where two men are charged with assaulting Jason Schneider, an openly gay white man, last September. (See GCN, Vol 14, No. 33) Jeffrey Nelson and Jonathan Miller, two white men, are charged with assault and battery, and violation of civil rights in the case. On February 25, Judge Gordon Martin concluded there was sufficient evidence to warrant findings on the assault

and battery charges, but asked for more information on the civil rights aspect of the case. The case was continued to April 3.

The Attorney General's office asserts that Schneider's civil rights were attacked on several fronts. These include his right to personal privacy as defined by the Ninth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; his right to freedom of expression as defined by the First Amendment to the Constitution; and his right to personal privacy and expression as defined by Massachusetts Civil Rights Law.

It is not commonplace for the Attorney General's Office to file such a brief, said Attorney General James Shannon. But "the overriding issue in this case — that of civil rights protections for gays and lesbians — demands that we make our view of the state and federal civil rights crystal clear."

the energy or the resources to deal with the few instead of the many," he said. "We want to have our AIDS message be one that speaks to the education of the most number of people... We are concerned about any proposal that would have the net effect of hurting the overall public health goals involved. We look askance at any proposal that gives out the message that when you need help, you'll get handcuffs instead of a stethoscope."

Admitted Smith, "If it comes out that this discussion [of isolation powers] will discourage people from coming for treatment, we may have to back away from it, but the laws are still there. You then rely on each county going its own way."

Mobilization Against AIDS and

Citizens for Medical Justice, an ad-hoc group focusing on medical issues, have organized efforts to prevent the implementation of the new proposal. Initial community protest was somewhat confused because news of the health officers' intentions became known the last week in February when many AIDS activists were meeting with the CDC in Atlanta. Nonetheless, spurred by the efforts of Mobilization's National Board Chair Bill Paul, a demonstration against the proposals occurred in San Francisco on February 24. The following day, an ad-hoc group opposing the plan attended a meeting with public health officers and persuaded them to reconsider. The proposal is now being redrafted.

Continued on page 11



Participants in demonstration against proposed quarantine measures, Calif. State Building, S.F., Feb. 24.

Community Voices

help me squeeze!

Dear *GCN*:

Firstly, please forgive my informality. I've proudly received your package of legal materials concerning 'Protective' Custody and Gays and I do thank you with my deepest heart.

As you'll notice from my 'letterhead', I'm a certified Para-legal, which don't actually mean too much; however, it does mean **ACTIVITY, MIND IN MOTION, A STAND-UP SON OF A BITCH!!** and this brings me to inform you that I'm TRYING to start one helluva law suit against the department of corrections here in New Jersey for sexual discriminations, cruel & unusual punishments, boldface negligence, and most importantly, violations of the laws of **OUR LAND!** What is slowing me down is that they have me in "protective" custody and therefore I have no access to the law library.

Sure, there are a lot of activities in here, but the administration only lets the passifiable prisoners into them. To get anything done in here, especially for **GAYS** rights, some help must come from the outside.

Just because your gay makes you the center of humiliation. If a bastard don't like gays and ain't gay, he's got no business stripping another man for body searches and checking out another man's cock and balls!

As you can see I'm not much of a speller or writer, but I know what's right and wrong, and what is happening in the prisons around the world is surely **WRONG!**

Gays have to stand up for their Equal Rights and protect themselves and all ken folk too. If it keeps going the way it is the administration will have us fighting and killing each other *for* them!

Listen, I am more than willing to help, but I need your help too. I need legal books and materials. I'll darn sure put it to use. I ain't got nothin but time on my hands. Postage is a blessing. All material marked 'LEGAL' from any organization that is of a legal nature comes right in to me, unopened. (No hard back books, except from publishers.) Please keep your eyeballs peeled for these things! I'm gettin this place by the balls and I'm gonna **SQUEEZE**. Please help me get a grip and then you can be proud to help me pull and squeeze some more.

Do I talk too much or what?

Love,
Joey Robbins
67291-3-EE
Box CN-861
Trenton, NJ 08625

witomski responds to readers' response to witomski

Dear *GCN*:

What's most interesting about the responses (Community Voices, *GCN*, February 22-28) to my "Zeitgeist or Poltergeist?: Why Gay Books Are So Bad" (*GCN*, February 1-7) is that the critics of my criticism aren't really trying to refute my arguments; what they're questioning is my right to have written the piece in the first place. Charles Henry Fuller, Robin Lippincott, Lars Eighner, and the dreaded Terry Helbing seem to believe that the dirty little secrets of the gay publishing game are best left in the closet. Since all four are involved to some degree in gay publishing, I found it extremely disingenuous of them to pretend that all's well in gayland. Eighner, in particular, is infamous for his "what publishers and editors did to poor me" whines and has a collection of publishing horror stories that make my article seem positively Pollyanna-ish. All four letter-writers misrepresent the statements in my article and offer ad hominem attacks in lieu of reasoned debate.

I shouldn't lower myself to respond to the personal attacks on me, but silence, as the current scandal plaguing the federal administration clearly shows, isn't golden. Since I don't wish to give the appearance that these Four Horsepersons of the Gay Lit Apocalypse are correct in their assessments of my essay, let's see what we've got here.

Charles Henry Fuller ("The Alternative?") feels I should "Offer ways of cleaning up the mess." Would that I could! The central point of "Zeitgeist" is that the sorry state of gay publishing exists in a self-perpetuating cycle; I attempted to show how and why. The article described the status quo; Utopian visions were beyond its scope.

Lars Eighner ("Gay Writers Are Attempting Quality Work"), a contributor to many of the very same magazines he rebukes me for writing for, falls into the trap of believing that in order to know an egg is good, one has to lay one. George Bernard Shaw's music criticism continues to be read today, yet Shaw was not a musician. Similarly, we don't fault Pauline Kael for commenting on actresses because she isn't one, nor do we discount Ethan Mordden's opera critiques because he's never sung *Boris Godunov*.

Eighner states that my positive reaction to Roy F. Wood's *Restless Rednecks* was colored by my personal and professional relationship with Wood, but I was not the editor or agent of that book as Eighner maintains. I am, however, Wood's literary executor because I believe him to be a major gay writer. Yet all the writers Eighner praises are those he has close personal and/or professional involvements with: John Preston contributed the introduction to Eighner's forth-



WE'VE MOVED!

GCN's new address is:

**62 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 02116**

(Phone number is the same.) Come by if you're in the neighborhood and see our lavender space!



life-threatening

Dear *GCN*:

I really feel the need to share a current life-threatening problem with you so if worst comes to worst I could have some publicity and maybe get some help.

I was sexually harassed by another inmate to the point where I was forced to go into protective custody. This prison likes to force people out of PC by threatening them with disciplinary reports and taking away our property; also being made to sleep on a concrete slab with a blast of cold air constantly blowing into the cell.

I am not one to sit around and be abused and taken advantage of, so I have filed grievances against many things that are wrong: bugs and hair in the food, officers constantly threatening us with bodily harm, etc. etc.

If I return to general population my life is in danger. If I don't, and stay in PC, I lose 'credit' towards an earlier release [which a prisoner often doesn't accumulate while in PC] and will have to serve out the Maximum of my sentence. If someone can give me some legal help, I would appreciate it. I am a nervous wreck and am having trouble eating and sleeping because I never know if this person or one of his buddies will poison my food (which the prison administration would be glad to let him do) or otherwise attack me. It would help me rest better knowing someone out there at least knew what was going on.

Thank you,
Greg Thomas
081916
1150 SW Allapattah Rd
Indiantown, FL 33456

coming book (from Liberty Books) on writing porno; Tim Barrus worked with Eighner on a novel (in the interests of decorum, I saw no point in identifying Tim Barrus as the author of *My Brother, My Lover* in "Zeitgeist," but now naming that name serves to illustrate Eighner's idea of "quality"); Aaron Travis edited Eighner's work in *Drummer* and *Mach*. People in glass houses....

I do not equate literary excellence with popularity, as Robin Lippincott charges ("What Exactly Are You Arguing?"). But the fact remains that every book on the joys and sorrows of being Black or Jewish or female will get noticed by the *New York Times* and stand a chance at popular success. (Being popular doesn't necessarily mean a writer has sold out; Lippincott's romantic view of the writer starving for truth is several centuries too late.) Yet books on the joys and sorrows of being gay or lesbian are generally ignored. Homophobia is only part of the reason. With the vast amount of gay/lesbian garbage that's being produced, it's no wonder that the diamonds get lost amid the zircons.

It's fair to say that Robert Gluck and Edmund White are trying to create literature; what they're not creating are books that are pleasurable reading experiences. White's *Nocturnes for the King of Naples* and Gluck's *Elements of a Coffee Service* are very heavy going; reading them is like eating ice on impacted wisdom teeth. How many of you have gotten through these two gems? How many of you have *heard* of them? I thought Gluck's *Jack the Modernist* was a halfway decent attempt at something-or-other, but I'd be very surprised if it has sold a thousand copies. Something is very wrong, and even after we take into account the lack of promotion *Jack the Modernist* received, we're still left with a book that many of the people who did buy it found impenetrable. Lippincott confuses "originality" with "experimental nonsense" and assumes that stylistic denseness means literary genius.

If the bulk of my discussion centered on gay male fiction, that's because it's more plentiful than lesbian fiction. Yet my arguments are the same regarding the sad state of lesbian publishing. What lesbian writers are proving (just take a gander at what Naiad Press is churning out) is that they can write as poorly as gay men. I suppose this is an achievement of sorts, but it's not an achievement I'm wildly enthusiastic about.

Finally, dizziest of all, we have the deep thoughts of Terry Helbing ("Petty Sniping at Gay Authors"). Helbing cites two recent attacks on gay book reviewers, but neglects to mention that Michael Denny is an editor at St. Martin's Press and that Ethan Mordden is a writer for —

Punny People

Thanks to everyone who added to the April Fools graffitti in *GCN*'s bathroom. Thanks also to Natalie Diffloth, Jan Fielding, Jean Vallon, Chris Wittke and the various staffers who put pen to paper for our annual spoof. Keep those jokes and parodies coming!

htlv-3 positive prisoners speak up

Dear *GCN*:

I am writing to your office in the sincere hope that you may be able to help us. We are a group of prisoners that have tested positive for the HTLV-3 antibody. We are housed in what is called "Special" Housing in Administrative Segregation with no access to the Law Library, Reading, Church Services, School/College or Vocational Courses. We are not properly classified. It is hard to get clothing. The rules are made up from day to day. Medical personnel are incompetent. Grievances are no good. Requests are never answered. Sensitive information is not kept in confidentiality. Our rights and equal privileges are a joke. To be sick or dying people, we don't get any treatment. We get treated like 3rd class people. Would you please write back.

Thank you,
Leroy Winters
424450 Ad Seg 06
Rt 4 Box 1300
Rosharon, TX 77583

[Prisoner Project note: The entire Texas prison system has been 'under court order' for years now for conditions that even the Texas courts recognize as 'unacceptable'. There is a 'Special Master' in charge of investigating the system's compliance to the courts' orders and letters of protest regarding the situation described above should be addressed to: Office of the Special Master, c/o Mayo Schreiber, Esq., PO Box 61467, Houston, TX 77208. Please write them, and also Leroy, of course.]

what a coincidence! — St. Martin's Press, whom Denny edits, so both have vested interests in calling for reviewers to be flacks. Editors and writers responsible for lousy books are fond of blaming the critics, believing, probably correctly, that it would be possible to foist even more dreck off on the gay reading public if only those troublesome reviewers would just shut up.

For the record: I receive *no* "commission or some other perk" whatsoever from the National Writers Union. But libelous as Helbing's charge is (and I am investigating legal measures in response to this bit of slander), I can see where he got the idea. As a mascot for the Lavender Quill Society, that group of in-bred Manhattan gay writers who believe that gay literature begins and ends in their clique (outsiders need not apply for membership), Helbing can't believe that anyone would work for an organization without financial remuneration. (I write for whatever publications I choose to, whether paying or non-paying. My concern and my work for the NWU does not center on publications, like *GCN*, whose policy is not to pay writers, but on publications, like *FirstHand* and *Blueboy*, who persistently fail to honor their contracts for payments to writers.) Incidentally, Helbing, when not being co-publisher of Gay Presses of New York (a house that according to several of its authors is a miasma of mismanagement, so it's no wonder that Helbing worries about the NWU), also runs a gay theater company (which I foolishly contributed to in the past before it became obvious that Helbing's only interest is his self-serving agenda) and writes theater criticism (a good bit of it virulently negative) for the *New York Native*. Helbing's conflicts of interest run very deep indeed.

Again, for the record: I have published over one thousand articles and stories in such publications as *The Advocate*, *Penthouse*, the *Native*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *Gallery*, all the gay male slicks, etc., etc., over thirty erotic novels and have contributed to the books *Hot Living: Erotic Stories About Safer Sex* (Alyson), *Gay Life: Leisure, Love and Living for the Contemporary Gay Male* (Doubleday), *Wads and Hot Acts* (both Gay Sunshine). Since I've made a tidy living from freelance writing for the last ten years, I don't think I need worry about being "accepted by gay publishers." I don't have "a bad manuscript in [my] bottom drawer," but I can just imagine the shit Helbing has squirreled away and hopes to get published by sucking up to gay publishers in letters to the editor filled with lies.

T.R. Witomski
Toms River, NJ

GayCommunityNews

**Cover Illustration:
Jean Vallon and
Kathy Brown**

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

We Still Have a Long Way to Go, Baby: Racism in New York

By Nancy K.

On Sunday, March 15, 1987, a Shescape Productions-sponsored dance was picketed by COOL (Committee of Outraged Lesbians) at Tunnel, 220 12th Ave. at 27th St. Although COOL only received notice of this event on Tuesday evening, March 10, fifteen picketers, including four new enlistees were present. Our efforts succeeded in that we found many willing listeners, and 20 would-be entrants walked away. Yet & still, there were many "diehards," Black, Hispanic, White and Asian. One woman stood atop the steps of Tunnel and exclaimed, "so what should I do, get mad? Should I go kill them? Another unsympathetic patron, whom one of our picketers recognized and had encountered before, stood defiantly between myself, a Black woman, and another picketer, a White woman. Addressing the White woman, she asked, "What's this all about?" The woman, anticipating a hostile response, simply stated, "You know, it's the same old thing." At that instant, I handed her a flyer, she glanced at it and shoved the sheet into the woman's chest and added, "Don't you have anything better to do with your life?" I must remark that some women seem under the misconception that COOL members and the complainants who've filed at the Human Rights Commission are involved in a farce. [See *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 28] What makes them think we are doing this for busywork? Do they understand that in 1964 (a mere 22 years ago), under Lyndon B. Johnson's administration a Civil Rights Act was adopted when our Constitution should more than adequately protect us from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice whence all 'men' are created equal. . . in a government by the people; of the people, and for the people?! My anger is mounting reader; obviously, this woman is a racist, no? Instinctively, she is intimidated into reacting blindly with hostility because we offer "outr" community information, protest a civil injustice, and have come together to contain dignity in our "lesbian community." This assertive woman's insensitivity spoke loudly in that she did not act toward me, the Black woman who actually handed her her flyer, but instead chose to address the White woman present. I suppose it would be beneath her to address a woman of color about her civil rights? Too trivial, huh? Perhaps she was more disturbed that a White woman was "wasting" her time on the rights of people of color. This attitude seems to parallel other racist incidents in our country like in Howard Beach, Brooklyn, N.Y., where three Black men were attacked by a group of White assailants, which left one victim dead. Unfortunately, the victims in the Howard Beach

racially-motivated attacks did not have a crowd of picketers at their defense as did we, so that such an assault was limited. I hope you readers are truly following what I've just said, because often times we think that because we are gay, we have overcome the ills of heterosexual society: racism, sexism, physical and mental cruelty and rudeness to our "gay sisters."

Another interesting aspect to this packet was the role the door woman, a Black-Hispanic, played in crowd control, might we say. It seems she's had instructions from headquarters about her information-retrieval techniques since her last door-shift at Club 1018 in February, where COOL picketed 50-persons strong on one of the coldest nights of winter. Stationed at the forefront, eventually with two white males behind her, she asked the patrons not to enter the club with the flyers, instead to put them into their pockets or hand them to her. Summarily, after four hours, she had created a trash pile at a corner in the entrance-way to Tunnel. Three would-be patrons who questioned COOL at length and then went to hear "the other side of the story," were particularly angered that someone would even attempt telling them they could not read a flyer. That alone warrants "no-enter" to Shescape-sponsored events, said one of the trio.

If you wish to help COOL in any way, please contact us at (212)243-0202.

Nancy K. is a member of COOL (Committee of Outraged Lesbians), a group claiming and protesting differential treatment of women of color at events sponsored by Shescape Productions in New York City.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The *GCN* staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Community Voices

'negro' an offensive anachronism

Dear *GCN*:

I want to register my extreme dissatisfaction with the way Don Hill describes the character Bernard in his review of the Boston production of *The Boys in the Band*. To say that Bernard is a "diminutive but amusing Negro" is to render him in a most condescendingly stereotypical manner. First of all, the term "Negro" is an offensive anachronism that has no place in the pages of *GCN*; *The Boys in the Band* may be a "period piece," but the review is contemporary and ought to reflect an understanding of the ways black people currently wish to be identified.

Secondly, though I have not seen the Boston production, neither the photo that accompanies the review nor the illustration in the ad for the play in the same issue of *GCN* suggests to me that Bernard is "diminutive." It may be that this is the way the playwright envisioned the character and that he noted this in the script, but a reviewer's concern is the specific production before him or her, not bits of stage direction that may or may not be adhered to. If Bernard is indeed "diminutive," why is this important? If he is not — then what purpose is served by diminishing his stature in the review of the play? The reduction of black characters' physical presence is analagous to their trivialization in the political sphere, and is suspect wherever it occurs.

Finally, to characterize Bernard as "diminutive but amusing" strikes me as exceedingly odd — first, because this phrasing seems to suggest that people are rarely both; second, because Bernard's "amusing"-ness seems to be made to compensate for his "diminutiveness," for what Hill implies is his slightness as a person; and, third, because the conjunction of the two qualities in a black male character conjures up nothing so much as a minstrel, or a plaster cast lawn jockey in some suburban yard, indicating that the safest, most appropriate role for the black man is as a small, unthreatening trickster who will entertain whites.

There is nothing in Don Hill's review to suggest that this is not his attitude toward black men. It seems to me that it is the role of the features editor to ensure that readers know that this is not *GCN*'s attitude toward black men. An impressive gesture in this direction was made with the paper's coverage of the black gay male experience during February; an equally important one would be to make sure that nothing so offensive as Hill's characterization of a black gay male character ever again taints the pages of *Gay Community News*.

Phillip Brian Harper
Madison, WI

Features Editor responds: Both Don Hill and I assumed his sarcasm would be evident in the phrase in question.

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

Dear *GCN*:

I noted with interest Ann Fry's review of Joanne Loulan's lecture, particularly her reference to a documented case of AIDS transmission between two lesbians. Loulan was incorrect in citing the case on several counts. First, the "documentation" occurred not in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, but in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In a December 1986 letter to the editor, several researchers discussed "a case of AIDS in a lesbian without any recognized risk factors" reported in 1984, in the journal *AIDS Research* (Sabatini and Hirschman, "Kaposi's Sarcoma and T-Cell Lymphoma in an Immunodeficient Woman: A Case Report," Vol. 1, pp. 135-137).

In the 1986 letter, researchers from NYU Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control report that "consistent with the (1984 case), we report the apparent female-to-female sexual transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)."

Key words here are apparent. At the time, it seems the CDC did not categorize either case as transmission by lesbian sex. One of the women involved in the case cited in the 1986 article was an IV-drug user who presented in November of 1981 with unexplained weight loss. She had cervical lymphadenopathy (a symptom of ARC) and subsequently became chronically ill. In 1984 she came down with Kaposi's Sarcoma. In October of 1982, her female sexual partner of 4-6 weeks presented with a "febrile illness and lymphadenopathy." This persisted and later she had weight loss and "oral candidiasis" (thrush). Blood drawn in December of 1984 was positive for HIV. This woman had never used IV drugs, and had not had a transfusion, nor was she of Haitian origin, then considered a risk factor.

Researchers postulated that the sexual contact between these two women was the means of transmission — finger and oral contact vaginally and rimming. Contact also occurred during the first woman's menstrual period and both women had experienced bleeding "as a result of traumatic sexual activities" (presumably sex toys or fisting; this is unclear in the article).

Other complications also exist with this particular case. The second woman reported one night of intercourse (with condoms) with a bisexual man in August of 1984 — after the initiation of her sexual relationship with the lesbian IV-drug user. Thus she had sex with someone in a risk group before she tested positive. Other sexual contacts between 1977 and 1985 (again researchers are unclear and do not explain whether both women had such sexual contacts) included sex with two heterosexual men without known risk factors. One of these men was tested negative for HIV; the second declined testing, reporting he was in "excellent health." Certainly these facts contribute to some skepticism on my part in reviewing these cases.

I do want to stress however that lesbians are contracting AIDS via IV-drug use, transfusions, and some are testing positive from these contacts, and from heterosexual contacts. Lesbians may identify as lesbians and occasionally sleep with men who are at risk by virtue of their activities. Women are "receptive" partners when having

sex with men, and are thus at "higher risk." Given the blood exposure and presumed fecal exposure by rimming as well as the IV-drug use of one of the women cited above, it is possible and apparent that there was transmission of the HIV virus by sexual means in the above case. Repeated exposure to the virus may also have played a role in both individuals — the IV drug user may have continued sharing needles and been exposed; the lesbian with bisexual and heterosexual contacts may have been exposed through sex with men who had engaged in "risky" behaviors.

The point here is that we lesbians do need to con-

sider our own behaviors and decide for ourselves, between ourselves, with our partners whether to engage in "safer sex," which behaviors and changes we wish to make; no one is immune here and as women and lesbians or bisexuals, we are among the least likely groups to be addressed, considered, informed about how to be safer. In that sense, I believe Loulan was performing a service with her inclusion of safer sex endorsements in her speech.

Sincerely,
Marea Murray
Allston, MA

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Post-Stonewall Psychiatry Speculates on Feminine

By Donald Stone

Any time the psychiatric profession responds intelligently and constructively to the phenomenon of homosexuality, there is cause for excitement. When the *New York Times* gives coverage to such a response, and generates as a result fiery letters of protest, we can feel confident that something is happening about which we should know more. At issue is Dr. Richard Green's latest book, *The "Sissy Boy Syndrome" and the Development of Homosexuality*, just published by Yale University Press. It records the results of a nineteen-year study devoted to the evolution of two male groups between the ages of 4 and 24 approximately. One group was comprised of boys who cross-dressed, played with dolls, and avoided sports; the other, of boys who were selected not for their behavior, but because their families matched those of the "feminine" boys with respect to ethnicity, religion, number of siblings, etc. Through a number of standard tests, Green, who is professor of psychiatry at UCLA, subsequently discovered — and records in his book — that significant personality differences existed nonetheless between the two groups and that those differences correspond to aspects of what the society broadly defines as male and female behavior.

Although some of the results of Green's study can be stated simply, even a glance at Jane Brody's *New York Times* article (Dec. 16, 1986) or at the angry responses it occasioned (*New York Native*, Jan. 5, 1987) suffices to show that by presenting the results simply one is certain to distort and mislead. Whatever the public impression of Green's book may be, this is not a work based on the premise that "the most desired thing is for a boy to become heterosexual," nor, to return to the same letter in the *Native* just quoted, was the judgment as to what constitutes "feminine" behavior left to the eye of the beholder. The many personality tests Green administered to the two groups give the lie to any charge of a subjective bias. To the degree that the researcher reveals a personal attitude toward his "feminine" subjects, it may be described as a sympathetic response, one eager to ensure that the boys become more comfortable with their parents, their peers, and, above all, with their own emotions.

On the other hand, it is also clear that the gay community has many reasons to feel uneasy about this book.

the precise value that it places on psychotherapy remains, along with several other features, far from clear.

At the center of the discussion we find the fact that of the two-thirds of both groups that Green remained in contact with until the end of the study, three-fourths in the "feminine" group are today homosexual or bisexual, where such is true of only one member of the "masculine" group. Thus this investigation lends considerable substance to the idea that certain "feminine" behavior in young boys announces homosexual behavior to come. But is that "feminine" behavior the cause of homosexuality? And what is the source of such behavior? Green's answers to these difficult and crucial questions prove to be the most elusive aspect of the report.

For example, in one of many passages designed to qualify his findings, Green is quick to insist that the boys in his study should not be confused with individuals who participate "occasionally" in feminine behavior: "The behaviors shown by these boys were well beyond the range of cross-gender behaviors shown by many boys, boys who are not *unhappy being male*." Clearly, the remark attempts to prevent any application of the results of this study to children whose behavior might have a superficial resemblance to that Green examined. His subjects' activity was related to serious issues of gender identity. By making this important distinction Green does more, however, than give a careful definition of the population of his main concern. He also emphasizes an orientation in his subjects that was profound, so profound, in fact, that we discover it resisted the efforts of psychotherapy to uproot it and survived those outward "feminine" manifestations which tended to recede as the boys matured.

Consider the case of Kyle, who at five was subjected to a program of behavior modification, separate from Green's investigation and overseen by individuals not related to his research. At home "Kyle received blue tokens for 'desirable' behaviors, such as play with boys' toys or with boys, and red ones for 'undesirable' behaviors, such as doll-play, 'feminine' gestures, or playing with girls. Blue tokens were redeemable for treats, such as ice cream. Red tokens resulted in loss of blue tokens, periods of isolation, or spanking by father. The treatment

twins concerns a case of biologically identical boys, one of whom exhibited "feminine" behavior as a child; the other, only "masculine" behavior. In later life, the "feminine" twin became involved in a homosexual relationship, whereas his "masculine" twin was seeing only women. To explain this difference, Green musters material from the sociological sphere; that is, he explores differences in the parents' interaction with the two boys. One was sickly and grew closer to the mother who cared for him; the stronger child bonded with the father.

If the case of the twins figures prominently in Green's evaluation of a biological grounding for homosexuality, it is because they prefigure the researcher's principal finding with respect to the "feminine" group as a whole. Just as the twins' parents responded differently to the boys who then went on to diverge in their choice of sexual partners, so it is Green's contention that health, parental attitude, even parental history contributed to the continued "feminine" behavior in the group from which so many homosexual men emerged and that heredity alone cannot explain their evolution.

The environmental profile Green establishes for the "feminine" boys is not easily summarized. He offers in the book an (admittedly) oversimplified pattern — Figure 10.1 — which is reproduced here. Noticeably absent from the schema is the stereotype of a family with a dominant mother and submissive father. This explanation for male homosexual behavior Green's study did not corroborate. Still, elements of the stereotype remain. The mothers in question are reported to have been less hostile toward their sons' "feminine" behavior; the fathers, less inclined to push their boys into aggressive play. The interesting wrinkle of frequent illness in the histories of the "feminine" boys brings them, like one of the twins, into closer contact with the mother who becomes the parent responsible for looking after the child during this period.

Given the emphasis that Green places on this aspect of the boys' background and his reluctance to accept a purely biological explanation because of the twins, should we conclude that the schema in Figure 10.1 replaces the biological explanation with a purely environmental one? Green gives an unequivocal answer to the question: "While the variables are placed sequentially as they would



Its very title invites the sweeping (and mistaken) assumption that Green is reporting about boys who exhibited "sissy" behavior and who, as a result, grew up to be homosexual. Its considerable length works against encouraging readers to persevere until every definition or qualification that accompanies the discussion has been absorbed and understood. Its origins in a therapy program places the study uncomfortably close to a world that has long seen homosexuality as a "problem" to be treated and even corrected. Green's own conclusion about psychotherapy proves quite revealing in this regard: "Reduction of conflict and stigma will remain viable treatment goals until society evolves to the point of accommodating greater latitude in the boyhood expression of currently 'sex-typed' behaviors." Although reading this remark to mean, "Until society changes, sissy boys must change," would misrepresent the thrust of the book, as we shall see,

program lasted ten months." Although Kyle was later described by researchers as "indistinguishable from any other normal teen-age boy," when interviewed by Green at age eighteen, Kyle admitted to a homosexual experience and to sexual fantasies involving men.

Given this emphasis in the book on the intensity of boys' "feminine" behavior and the revelation that the treatment program failed to transform Kyle, we might well expect that Green is preparing a purely genetic explanation for homosexuality. Yet he concludes no such thing: "I doubt that a biological factor can completely explain the development of these boys' different patterns of sexual identity. Nor do I believe," he adds, "that a biologic factor can completely explain the emergence into homosexuality of some of the previously 'feminine' boys. This simplistic etiological basis is at odds with what we found for our 'identical' twins in chapter 8." This reference to

have occurred in time, the lines connecting them should not be interpreted to mean causality, only a sequential correlation." Ever faithful to the refusal to be absolute about any single feature of the boys' stories, the book leaves us with the proposition that various elements have been at work, that some boys' development of cross-gender behavior depends on "an interaction between a sufficient degree of such behavior appearing spontaneously, an initial positive reaction to the behavior by parents, and a receptivity by the boy to parental reinforcement." "Sufficient degree" and "spontaneously" appear to define the role Green would attribute to biology. The parents' reaction constitutes the environmental factor. Whether the "receptivity" is, too, part of the biological make-up I am not certain Green tells us.

What he does tell the reader on the way to this tripartite conclusion proves to be just as convoluted as the

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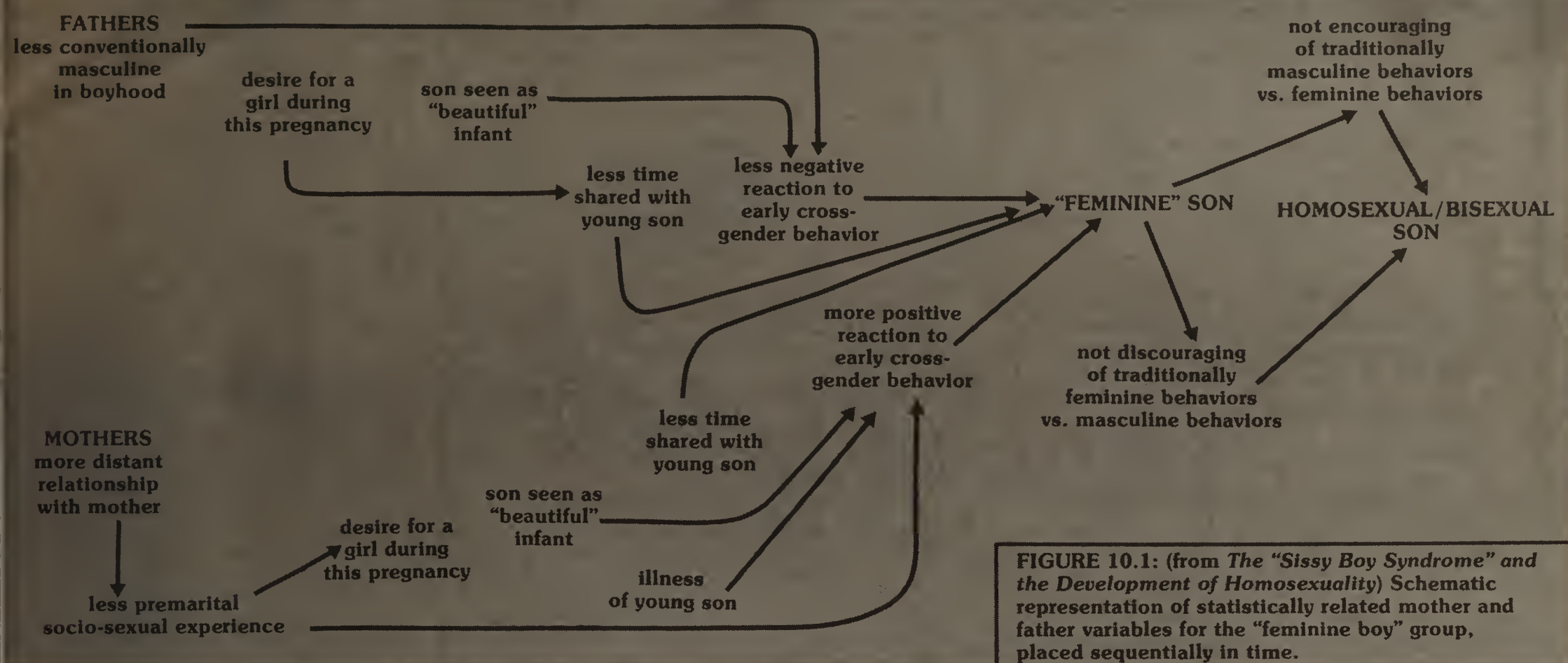
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Sissy Boys

Behavior and Homosexual Choices



preceding summary of Green's main argument. Take the function of psychotherapy. This book has nothing good to say about programs of behavior modification. Still, Green has no difficulty speculating that "the parents' decision to enter our study may have had a profound impact on the son's sexual identity development. . . . It may explain why only one boy evolved as transsexual and none as transvestic." As part of his conclusion Green will, it is true, attempt to explain why the intrusion of parental concern and evaluation may stave off transsexualism/transvestism, whereas the red and blue tokens could not suppress Kyle's homosexuality. But the arguments are predictably peppered with the now all-too-familiar words "perhaps," "might," "may" and many readers will no doubt keep wondering just what psychotherapy can and cannot do.

And then there is the story of the identical twins. Their divergent behavior as children, it will be remembered, convinced Green that genetics alone could not explain the homosexual orientation of the majority of the group. On the surface, the conclusion seems reasonable enough but Green's own data eventually produces a far more complex portrait of these two individuals.

Although in childhood Frank exhibited "masculine" behavior and attitudes, when last seen by Green, he was sexually involved with both a man and a woman. At the same point in time, Paul, the "female" twin, had impregnated his girlfriend. He still saw himself as gay but believed "strongly" that in the future he would marry and have children. Thus, despite different behavior when growing up, the twins had reached in early adulthood quite parallel situations in their sexual orientation, surely incontrovertible proof of a genetic source for that orientation. "Not really," is Green's response: "Their similar genetic contributions to sexual orientation define the limits within which their childhood experiences can modify later erotic behavior." On the other hand, "That genetics does not account entirely for sexual partner preference is demonstrated by the twins' different patterns of adolescent behavior."

Is this not a judgment that may indeed lie in the eye of the beholder? Who is to say *which* "sexual partner preference" counts the most? In the sentences just

quoted, Green highlights the differences between the twins rather than the similarities that lie in their increasingly bisexual performance and, once again, insists on the part genetics/part environment theory of the boys' behavior. With, however, only a slight shift in emphasis toward that emerging bisexuality, we could obtain a very important shift in theory.

Green's choice of which behavior to stress with regard to the twins is all the more striking in light of his willingness to comment on the way eight of the subjects moved in and out of homosexual and heterosexual behavior during adolescence and given his expectation (which concludes the book) that the men he studied will no doubt continue to develop. Their story has not ended. The gay/straight proportions, it is implied, may well change.

Thus, as the book closes, we encounter not a conclusion but a virtual reopening of its central questions. In a sense, this ending stands as a tribute to Green's grasp of the variability, indeed, unpredictability of human nature but it also adds a final touch of unsettling irony to this concerted effort to bring order out of variability and to see shapes in a pattern that has, in truth, been only partially traced.

Postscript


At various moments in his book Green allows us to hear edited conversations he had with his subjects and their parents. Although this material is offered, in Green's words, to "flesh out" his analysis of the data, it has a value quite independent of the study in question. Here reproduced for us are varied accounts of the feelings and attitudes of young gay males who were born in the early '60s. Their youth corresponds to the halcyon days of gay liberation, to the sexual revolution and free thinking that swept the country in the wake of protest over the Viet Nam war. Moreover, these men all grew up in the Los Angeles area, that is, in a geography that afforded easy access to urban ways and to the information that city life contains. Nevertheless, Green's transcripts suggest that such advantages were not sufficient to circumvent the myths, anxieties, and imperfect impressions of homosexuality so long abroad in our culture.

To be sure, the picture is not all dark. By age seventeen Bobby had passed from accepting his sexual pref-

erence to a second stage, described by Bobby as one in which he said to himself, "I'm gay and *everyone else* has to accept it." Reuben came out at sixteen and was reporting three years later that, "Everything seems to be going fine." But these men are not characteristic of the majority of those whose attitudes we become privy to. Larry, at last report, had turned away from men. Shunned at parties for being gay, he reflected on the gay life, particularly for older men: ". . . I see old gay men that are just so lonely and so unhappy, and they try so hard and they get so much rejection. . . . There's one in my apartment building right now, and I look at him — he is so pathetic, he just had a triple bypass and there was nobody that cared about him. . . ." Kyle echoes Larry, resisting a life he sees as filled with "weird bars" and unhappiness. Nick worries about the lack of romance in gay relationships. He believes that only male/female relationships are fulfilling. Gays couple "only for the moment of pleasure. . . or a certain delightment [sic] in the body." Most wrenching of all: Steven, who has come to associate love of men with pain and hurt: "I haven't gotten depressed enough to become heterosexual, which sounds strange to me, thinking that I would have to turn to heterosexuality, probably out of depression."

With Green, we might point to the age of the speakers and take comfort in the thought that time has yet to work all its revelations about self and others. But the fact remains that even in a period of relative openness and increased information about homosexuality the ghosts of times past still haunt our world, a situation that poses serious challenges to the gay community.

We can decide that the dark impressions persist because, like it or not they are true. Or, we can be adamant in our denial that "weird bars," loneliness, and rejection tell the essential story of gay life. Whichever becomes our response there is obviously much work to do. Social scientists like Richard Green will no doubt continue to speculate on the origins of homosexuality but much of what they are discovering along the way tells us that to the subjects of their investigation the past may count for less than the future. As the newest arrivals into the gay world, they need someone who will begin to explain and comfort, someone, one is tempted to add, other than social scientists and psychotherapists.



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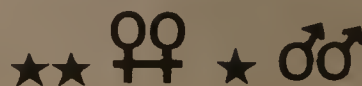
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SCOT McDONALD



GCN Banned From Prisons

Continued from page 3

publication may not be banned, but only confiscated, issue-by-issue. Ed Koren, staff attorney at the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, told *GCN*, "A blanket kind of ban seems to me to be clearly a violation — it's prior restraint. How can you ban something that hasn't been published yet?" Koren added that other positive precedents exist in addition to the 1983 ruling that can be used to challenge the rejection of individual issues.

However, as the Marquette prisoner noted in a letter to *GCN*, even if the ban were overturned and even if each issue were not individually rejected, it is likely "the mailroom would hold them [the papers] up, 'lose them,' etc."

A ban on *GCN* at the Pine Bluff women's prison in Arkansas was made in January by the "administration" there. Warden Virginia Wallace told *GCN* the paper is no longer approved "because of the type of paper." When pressed, she said, "We don't accept gay [papers] — we don't need this information." Apparently *GCN* had been allowed prior to January because officials were not aware of its contents. "Nothing gay [will come in] if we know about it," said Wallace. She declined to answer additional questions on why lesbian/gay publications are unacceptable.

As *GCN* goes to press, the Dept. of Corrections for Arkansas is reviewing the Pine Bluff ban. David White, assistant to the Dept.'s director for public and legislative relations, said he believes it is likely Pine Bluff will stop the ban and instead review each issue of the

paper for objectionable content. The men's prison at Cummins, Arkansas currently reviews each issue of *GCN* and finds each issue a threat to the "order" of the institution.

A lesbian prisoner at Pine Bluff has attempted to regain access to *GCN* and is currently in the process of appealing the decision to Pine Bluff's administration.

The warden of the men's unit at Holman prison, in Alabama, also refused to provide details about the decision to refuse *GCN*. Warden Willy E. Johnson said the paper has not been accepted at Holman since the middle of February because "I banned it." When asked to elaborate, Johnson replied, "I don't see that I have to tell you anything." When asked if there had been any specific occurrences leading up to the ban, he did say that the paper threatens the "security" of the prison and is "not in the best interest of the institution or inmates." He refused to be specific.

An attorney with Alabama's state Dept. of Corrections, John Harmon, told *GCN* he does not know if the paper is currently prohibited in other state prisons. He said each warden is allowed to "bring publications to the atten-

tion of the [prison] commissioner" who makes a final determination that usually applies to all institutions within the state.

Harmon said it is his understanding that *GCN* was banned at Holman because it "promotes homosexual activity, which in a prison situation, promotes AIDS." While he acknowledged that papers such as *GCN* may provide AIDS information, he stressed that Alabama's prison system offers its own AIDS prevention material. He could not say what the information includes. Harmon added that an ad appearing in *GCN* for the North American Man/Boy Love Association, an intergenerational sex organization, "interferes with the rehabilitation of sex offenders."

In a related development, letters from *GCN* to lesbian prisoners, soliciting articles for a lesbian prisoners supplement to appear sometime this spring, have been rejected by prison officials in a number of states. The Broward Correctional Institution in Pembroke Pines, Florida rejected a letter to one prisoner on the grounds that *GCN*'s request for submissions "concerns plans for activities in violation of institutional rules."

—filed from Boston

California Considers Quarantine

Continued from page 5

Says Boneberg, "The first step is to make sure the county officers don't arrive at some statewide consensus on how they're going to use their power. So far, we've moved forward forcefully to counter them — a lot of pressure was brought to bear on the authors of this report and they're under enormous public scrutiny. All civil rights groups are very distraught over this."

Some observers suspect that the proposal is merely symbolic and will re-emerge in a watered down, more politically palatable format. Others, like Smith, insist that the notion of urging uniformity in the use of quarantine powers is intended to guarantee fairness when the government begins enforcing isolation. He hopes that relatively liberal health officers who stress the need for civil rights precautions will have a moderating influence on the officers in more conservative counties.

"We want to have as much open discussion about this as we can," says Smith, "and as we reconsider the guidelines we'll take a lot of these concerns into account. Every draft we write has more and more stress on education."

Boneberg reiterated that convincing county health officers to refrain from implementing quarantine is the best way to diffuse the danger. He explained that it is unrealistic to expect a repeal of quarantine laws, given the difficulty in even getting anti-discrimination laws passed to protect people with AIDS/ARC or HIV antibodies. Hence, rendering existing laws meaningless is the current goal. The Disease Control Committee will seek further community input on their revised proposal before it is again presented to the California Conference of Local Health Officers. The revision is expected within several weeks.

—filed from Nashville, TN

Support Through the Looking Glass

SEATTLE — *Through The Looking Glass (TTLG)*, a quarterly newspaper for women in prison, is in danger of folding and in need of some financial and labor power support, according to the *Seattle Gay News*. The paper has been "connecting" lesbians in prisons and mental hospitals with each other and with outside support for twelve years now. It has been the source of

several projects around the country which provide important educational, housing, job and other services for a group of people, women in prison, who are otherwise practically "invisible."

Prisoners and outsiders who wish to contact TTLG may write them at: TTLG, P.O. Box 22061, Seattle, WA 98122.

—Mike Riegle

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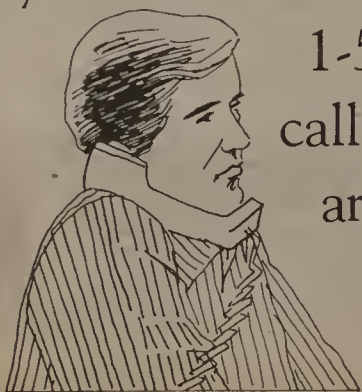
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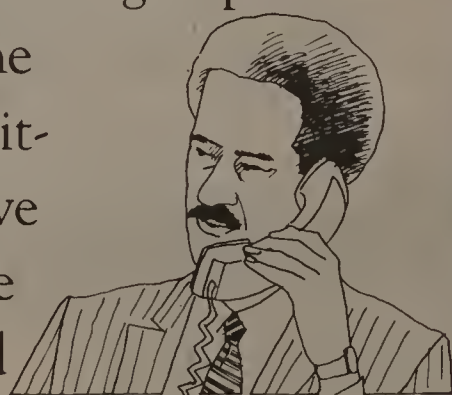
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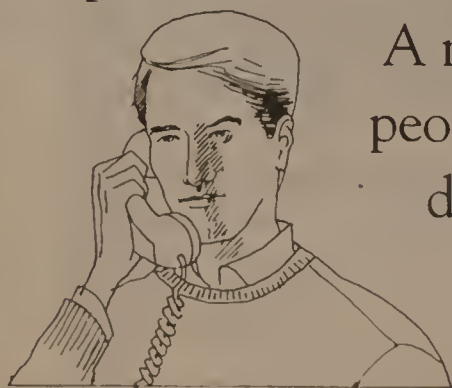
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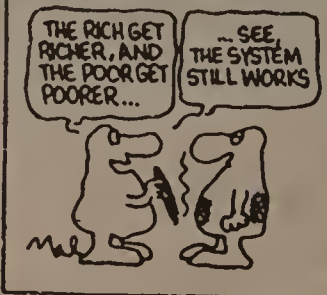


PRISONER FRIENDS!

GCN is MOVING! (to 62 Berkeley St, Boston MA 02116). Since the Prisoner Project coordinator is also the Office Manager, we are getting behind answering your requests. PLEASE be patient. Next week (hopefully) we get it back together.



PRISONERS! Please send us some doodles, drawings, poems and poetic scribbles for this summer's prisoner centerspread of poetry and drawings. DON'T WORRY if you aren't a 'pro'! Some of your heart-felt jottings and scribbles are the best we ever see! (But if we're lucky and get a FLOOD of stuff, please don't be pissed if we can't put in everything. THANKS! (this is the fun-est part of the prisoner project — smile)



Lonely and attractive male seeking carling penpal. I am financially secured and seek only penship. Please write. Henry O. REESE, 180-074, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I'm doing life In Texas and finding good friends In this dog eat dog place is impossible. I'm a 21 yr old gay boy who loves to have fun. I like fishing, football (Washington Redskins), sex and kissing is a must! Glenn E. DOVE, 341707, Ellis Two, Huntsville TX 77340

Prisoners Seeking Friends

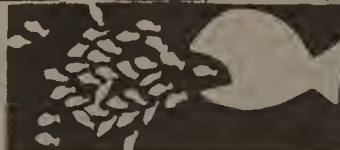
TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)

DICTIONARIES!!

The Books for Prisoners Project has been sitting pretty with a BOX of dictionaries from Lesbian Herstory Archives but now they're all given out and we need MORE! If you or your group would like to donate an old dictionary or 2, or some money to buy used or cheap ones, PLEASE DO!!! (Thanks!)

Used (foreign) STAMPS—FREE!

We have some used stamps that we've been collecting this year and will pass them on to those prisoners who collect stamps. Please write for some ONLY if you've checked to see if you can get used stamps through the mail. We'll wait a month and see how many requests we get, then we'll divide them up equally among the askers and send them out, so be patient. Thanks.



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COMING OUT!

What kind of support is available? What's needed? How to start getting it? What could prisoners be doing (inside organizing and after they're out)? Ideas?

Send Mike your feelings and thoughts on everything here from jobs to friendship to changes in people's attitudes toward 'ex-cons' etc. etc. I'll try to put them all together and make a story out of them. Thanks.



I have been called a 'coal haler' (that's when a gay boy has a black man). I'm a transvestite and very feminist. My man in hear is in the prison movement. I go by April Marie, but my name (for these people in here) is Billy J. NICELY, 43887, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Bi male, 30, Italian, looking for penpal and friendship. Any age or sex as long as you're true to yourself and to me. Would prefer transvestite or transsexual. Ronald SALVUCCI, A-905702 (861), 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 33456

Black male seeking TV/TS, true queen in body and mind. I'm energetic, muscular built, consider handsome. Ernest L. SYKES, 101367, Box 488, Burkeville VA 23922.

I recently bought a copy of Writers Market and when I seen your company I decided to inquire if you would be interested in any stories and if you would place a penpal ad for an intelligent gay penpal, please. Tony R. GROSS, 182-841, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I heard your paper helped people find friendship, lovers and moral support for lonely gays. I would truly appreciate hearing from someone who could share my interest in music, people and clothes. "Color" is not important (I love people, not "color") Jimmie, 141-922, 2400 Sheridan Ave, Muskegon MI 49482.

Could you possibly extend yourself to send me your gay paper. If you have the space, you might print an ad for me so I can find some friendship. You must receive thousands of letters asking for the same thing, so if it isn't possible, I will understand. Please enclose a stamp. David Wayne BROWN, 21661, Box 607, Carson City NV 89702.



A lesbian prisoner in a West Australia jail would appreciate a penpal. With a year still to serve behind bars, it would help me to get through the time. Please write Tracy KALLENBERG, PO Box 100, Guildford WA 6055, Australia.

ALECIA, be strong baby. Butch will forever be in our hearts & memories. I'm with you every step of the way. I love you. Pam

I just saw one of your papers & I really enjoyed it. I'd love to meet a few penpals. I'm very athletic, romantic, artistic and my sign is Scorpio. Race is no barrier. Carol GEORGE, 904-738, Box 535, Jessup MD 20794.

Attractive 27 yr old lesbian would enjoy correspondence from inside or out. I enjoy music, writing and honest friendship. Jacquelyn LATTIMORE, N5637 (4601E), PO Box 1800, Norco CA 91760.

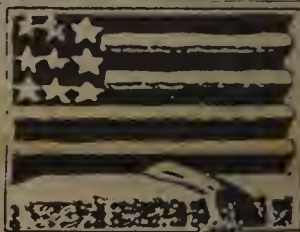


I hope you can find someone that is willing to accept my feelings and trust me. I need someone to talk to. I'm Black, 26, and not up for any con or other kind of games. Roderick JOYNER, PO Box 215, Maury NC 28554.

I'm gay, have been for some time. Wish to write anyone that will be honest and is interested in getting to know me. Thank you. Ray MINER, 189-074, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

I recently how you arrange for people to become friends through your service. I am interested in finding out more about this. Lance DOUGLAS, 091804 E-108, Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

I would really like to exchange letters with someone. Who knows? Something really good might come of this! Please write and let me know what I must do to get some attention from your program. I'm 5'7", Black, serving a 3 year sentence for receiving stolen goods. Marvin Lee BLUFORD, C-10735 Bldg 4-136-L, Box 4000, Vacaville CA 95696.



Serving time for bad checks, recovering alcoholic, seeking mutual friendship and fellowship. My sexuality and alcoholism estranged me from my family & friends, and I am starting anew. I would appreciate hearing from anyone. John T. REUTCKE, 34626, LCC-EU, Box 2800, Lincoln NE 68502.

I am actively involved in prisoners' rights law and am a jailhouse lawyer. I'd like to correspond with some gay men outside of prison, possibly a lawyer who could help me develop some free world contacts. I thank you for your efforts. I really didn't know where else to turn. Steven R. WYCOFF, Box 316, 13003, Ft Madison IA 52627.

Male, Black, 40 yrs old, incarcerated and lonely. Seeking penpal for friendship and affection. E.S. SMITH, 182321, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.



Incarcerated Black Gay Male, 26, intelligent, understanding, golden skin complexion, sexy and delicate features. Desires correspondence. Frederick L. COLVIN, 179-928, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

As you can imagine my present situation does not allow me to have a lot of money to pay for an ad. (I make \$10 a month for my labors.) If you could find the space in your newspaper to say that I spend most of my time reading educational literature and writing letters, and I'm interested in bowling, cooking and sports, I would appreciate it. Isaac MENTON, Box 45699, 183-463, Lucasville OH 45699.

A friend of mine has highly recommended your paper. It's hard to keep up on the progress of the gay community in here. Would someone out there take the time to help me keep up and be friends? Thank you. Stanley ('Sharon') LAYFIELD, Box 276 (B-2), Chester GA 31012.

Young, attractive and athletic slave looking for a master to serve with style. Could you be that master? If so, write Russell T. HARTSAW (Rusty), 21118-175, Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048.



CALENDAR

**March 28
to
April 10**

28 saturday

Boston — GCN Moving Party. All day Sat & Sun. Come to 167 Tremont or 62 Berkeley St. Info: 426-4469.

Boston — Boston Gay Men's Chorus annual spring concert "Rise Up Singin'," with selections from *Porgy and Bess*. Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory. 8PM. \$6-10. Sign interpreted. Info: 536-2412.

Boston — Women in Theater Festival. Suffolk Univ. Theater. Through the weekend. Info: 720-1988.

Cambridge — Lesbian couples discussion: Sexuality in Long-term Relationships. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — "poly-Esther," by United Fruit Company to benefit April 25th Mobilization for Justice and Peace. Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St. \$5. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 547-7728.

29 sunday

Boston — Am Tikva gala celebration of 10th anniversary. Buffet lunch, dancing. Uptown 965. 1:30-5PM. Reservations: 782-8894.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors meet for a casual brunch. Doyle's Cafe, Washington St., new room, rear. 11AM-1PM. Info: 522-3894.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian church of the lesbian and gay community, worship. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

Somerville — First meeting/potluck of Somerville Lesbians United Together. 2PM. Info: Kate, 776-4316 or Sara, 625-7435.

Cambridge — Monthly potluck of the new **Cambridge Area GALA.** Expanded neighborhood includes Somerville, Medford and points north. Info: Michael, 628-2643 or Kathryn, 661-6896.

Boston — Rock Against Sexism party includes screening of *2 in 20* lesbian soap opera. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 6-10PM. \$2. Info: 789-5853 or 734-1672.

30 monday

Boston — Discussion of relations between lesbian/gay community & the police department. Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance quarterly meeting. 110 Arlington St., Parker Hall, 2nd floor. 7:30PM. Info: 267-7413.

Boston — "Musically Speaking" plays the best in jazz, R&B, African, reggae & women's music. Every Monday, 8-10PM. WMBR, 88.1 FM. Info: 494-8810.

31 tuesday

Boston — Gay Fathers of Greater Boston social event: **rollerskating.** Spinoff. Info: 742-7897.

Cambridge — WITCH presents "Beyond the Wasteland: Radical Feminist Vision in 20th Century Women's Literature." with Lise Weil. Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St. 8PM. \$5 donation. Info: 491-3549.

Boston — Community Tax Aid every Tues. through April 15. AIDS Action Committee, 661 Boylston St., 6:30-8:30PM. Info: David Goldstein, 495-6509.

Boston — Legacy, gay/lesbian elders and friends, drop-in. GLCS, 6 Hamilton Pl. 11AM-4PM.



Freedom Trail Band, 11 saturday

april 1 wednesday

Cambridge — "Ages and Stages," feminist discussion. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street. 8PM. Open to all women. Info: 354-8807

Boston — "Say is Sister" programming every Wednesday. WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8PM.

Cambridge — Politics of Fat, a women's group focusing on self-acceptance & fat oppression. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: Judy, 321-8636.

2 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 7PM-on. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Storyteller Jennifer Justice. Allegra Coffehouse, YWCA, 7 Temple St. 8PM. \$6. Info: 547-1378.

3 friday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — AIDS Action Committee new volunteers training. 6:30-9PM. Continues Sat. 9AM-6PM. Info: Gary Beauregard, 437-6200.

Boston — Dance sponsored by the Boston Univ. lesbian/gay students. Backstage, George Sherman Union, 775 Comm. Ave. 8:30PM-12:30AM. \$5/3 students. Info: 353-9808.

Brookline — Am Tikva Shabbat service. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St., near Star Market T-stop. 8PM. Potluck reception follows.

Boston — Gay People and Immigration Law forum. U-Mass. Boston, 250 Stuart Street, Room 222. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 426-1350.

Cambridge — Musician Mimi German. Women's Center Coffehouse, 46 Pleasant St. 8PM. Info: 354-8807.

4 saturday

Cambridge — Blood Drive. DOB, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 10AM-3PM. Appointments: Jean, 277-8150.

Boston — DOB lesbian potluck. 156 Warren Ave., South End. 7PM. \$3 plus dish. Info: 661-3633.

Somerville — Crls Williamson & Tret Fure, and Greg Brown. Somerville Theater, Davis Square. 6PM & 9:30PM. \$14.50.

Boston — "Something About the Women," monthly half-hour program produced by Women's International News Gathering service. 11AM. WMFO 91.5 FM.

Cambridge — Deadline for securing a spot in the Amethyst Women's Vaguely Annual Talent Show to be held April 25. Info: 666-8485.

Cambridge — RE:VISION Film Festival includes work by Bette Gordon and Chantal Ackerman, among others. The Brattle and other area theaters 4/4-12. Info: Vanessa Boris, 253-0304.

5 sunday

Dorchester — Dorchester Gay and Lesbian Association, monthly potluck. Info: Joe, 282-7822, evenings.

Boston — Lip-Synch Contest sponsored by the Buccaneers to benefit the Beantown Softball League. 1270 Boylston. 5PM. \$6.

6 monday

Cambridge — Lesbian entrepreneurs. DOB, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — AIDS bereavement discussion sponsored by the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues of the National Association of Social Workers. 7:30PM. Info: 227-9635 days, 625-2609 eves.

Boston — GCN office warming. Potluck supper, 6PM. Membership meeting, 7PM. Dance party, 8:30PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Dover T-stops. All welcome. Info: 426-4469.

Boston — Paula Bennett speaks on **lesbian literature.** Geo. Sherman Union, 775 Comm. Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 353-9808.

Cambridge — Lesbian Rap. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.



Marie DeVincentis, 3 friday

7 tuesday

Cambridge — Former Nun Lesbian Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — LEGACY general meeting. Cambridge Committee of Elders, Pearl St., Central Sq. Info: Ann Maguire, 725-4000.

Amherst — "Politics of the Body and the Body Politic," with Margaret Cerullo, David Scondras, Cindy Patton & Sue Hyde. UMass, Memorial Hall. 4PM. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (413) 545-4824.

Boston — Day of Prayer & Fasting for people with AIDS/ARC organized by Dignity/Boston. Singing of Vespers, St. John the Evangelist, 7PM. All welcome.

8 wednesday

Brookline — Am Tikva hosts a "model seder." Workman's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 7PM. Bring veggie/dairy dish to share. Donation requested. Info: 782-8894.

9 thursday

Cambridge — Lesbians Choosing Children Network. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

Amherst — Virginla Apuzzo on "Policies of Prejudice: Institutional Responsibility for a Safe Climate." UMass, Memorial Hall. 8PM. Free. Wheelchair accessible. Info: (413) 545-4824.

10 friday

Boston — Gay Composers, Gay Poets, a vocal & piano concert by Richard Strange & Jonathan Goldberg. Arlington St. Church. 8PM. \$7, sliding scale. Also Sat. Info: 899-1678.

Richard's Things. Written by Frederick Raphael. Directed by Armando Martinez. With Liv Ullman and Amanda Redman. USA Nickelodeon, Boston. March 31 and April 1.

If you're looking for love, politics, humor, steamy sex or a sense of community in the 1987 Boston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, don't bother seeing *Richard's Things*. With its compact dialogue and muted emotions, it's more like something you'd see on public TV's "Masterpiece Theater," than a particularly lesbian-identified film.

Richard's Things tells the improbable story of Kate (Liv Ullman), an upper middle class woman in her 40s, who becomes obsessed with her dead husband's younger, free-spirited mistress, Josie (Amanda Redman). The two women acknowledge early on that they are drawn to each other out of a desire to "keep Richard alive." Although the scene where they begin their affair is hard to believe, suspended judgment seems a small price for the prospect of watching Liv Ullman make love with a womam. But that's something we don't get to see. The lovemaking happens off-camera.

Sex isn't the only thing the film promises and doesn't deliver. Questions of truth, deception, obsession and love are raised and then dropped. It edges up to violence, passion, madness and a love triangle, then backs away. Though the affair is more than a one night stand (Kate even goes so far as to insist that Josie move in with her), the women aren't able to sustain their relationship. The tensions build and the film goes on and on for an hour and 45 minutes, as tantalizing, and unsatisfying, as the women's affair.

— Kate Rushin

Waiting for the Moon. Directed by Jill Godmilow. Starring Linda Hunt, Linda Bassett, Bruce McGill and Andrew McCarthy. At the Nickelodeon, Boston. March 29. Extended run opens April 5.

Having little patience with the writing of Gertrude Stein and knowing even less about her infamous relationship with Alice B. Toklas, I was relieved to find that Jill Godmilow's recent release, *Waiting for the Moon*, dealt only in passing with Stein's said literary "genius" and concentrated on the very real and often rocky relationship between the two women.

Waiting for the Moon is enjoyable on many levels, but just watching the two women interact on screen is worth the price of the ticket. Linda Hunt is delightful as Alice Toklas, putting up with Stein's boorishness and at the same time standing up for her own needs, though less often having them met. In one particular scene, she is so distraught by Stein's reticence about her illness (which she only learns about by reading Gertrude's mail) she seeks help in a Catholic confessional only to discover she has nothing to confess.

Linda Bassett plays a perfect counterpart to Hunt. She has mastered Stein's caustic wit, using it as a mask for her vulnerability, and leaving her, for the most part, impenetrable.

Andrew McCarthy appears briefly as a very green Henry Hopper, just off the farm back home, whom Stein and Toklas pick up hitchhiking his way to Spain. Ernest Hemingway (Bruce McGill) also makes an appearance as a complacent, hard-drinking, yet likeable, womanizer. The addition of these other well-known personalities evokes memories of a past era and creates a kind of nostalgic air around the lives of Toklas and Stein. Their life together was indeed a privileged one for the time, and it is a rare treat to be able to sit and watch these two strong women go about living their daily lives as lesbians.

—Ann Fry

Calendar compiled by Terri L. Rutter

GayCommunity News

business guide

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